

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 15, 2010

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer
Excused: Kochenburger

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mayor Paterson welcomed members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to the meeting. Board Chair Mark LaPlaca reported the Board's approved budget is .04% lower than the current budget. Mr. LaPlaca cautioned the Council that the budget has significant amounts of federal stimulus money included both in the local budget and the ECSC state grant which won't be available next year. Superintendent Fred Baruzzi presented a review of the items eliminated from the budget but stated the budget, as presented, preserves all programs and services currently in place. Both the Board and Council commended Town Manager Matt Hart and Superintendent Fred Baruzzi for their individual and collaborative efforts throughout the year.

At this time the Council moved the special meeting to Room B.

III. UPCOMING BOND ISSUES

Council members were joined by members of the Open Space Advisory Committee who spoke in support of adding a one million dollar bond authorization for open space to the November ballot. The authorization was described as a line of credit which could be drawn from if needed. Committee members will review the wording of the last bonding authorization which failed because the requisite 15% percent voter turnout was not realized. The Committee will report back to the Council with their recommendations. Mr. Paulhus left at 7:30 p.m. By consensus the Council agreed to make the final decision at the meeting on the 19th. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan reviewed the projected debt if all current and proposed projects are bonded. FLAG – The Director of Finance will research what is considered a prudent bond amount for similar towns.

IV. REVIEW OF FLAGGED ITEMS

Ms. Trahan is preparing an analysis comparing the Town's cost for the in-house appraisal to the cost of the process for comparable towns. The initial review shows Mansfield's cost to be below or about the same as Coventry and Tolland.

Council members discussed the recommendation offered by the Library Advisory Committee to allow the Library Director complete discretion regarding the hours of the library. Although no decision was made the Council agreed they would like

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the Library Advisory Committee and the Library Director to make recommendations for the operation of the library.

Council members discussed the reallocation of the \$2000 previously allocated for Safe Havens. Members discussed the importance of supporting agencies that directly service citizens of Mansfield. Decisions will be made at the April 19th meeting.

V. OTHER

No comments

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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